

**California Department of Transportation  
Native American Advisory Committee  
Environmental Subcommittee Minutes  
March 4, 2004**

Jila Priebe welcomed everyone to the Environmental Subcommittee meeting. Introductions were made around the table.

Attendees were: Christine Boston, Ione Band of Miwok Indians; Teresa Dixon, Cultural Resources, Susanville Indian Rancheria; Cynthia Gomez, Department of Transportation, Native American Liaison Branch; Cassandra Hensher, Self; Melany Johnson, Cultural Resources, Susanville Indian Rancheria; Kathleen McClafin, Department of Transportation, Planning District 10; Jane Perez, Department of Transportation, District 10 Planning; Jila Priebe, Department of Transportation, Native American Liaison Branch; and Kathleen Sartorius, Department of Transportation, District 1.

Jila gave an overview of the Native American Advisory Environmental Subcommittee for the benefit of the new attendees.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Report of the final memo on “Native American Monitors”** Jila stated that the final memo has been signed by Gary Winters, Chief of the Division of Environmental Analysis. The purpose of the memo/policy is to clarify current policy, practice and expectations for Native American Monitors on Caltrans projects. The memo/policy will be included in the Environmental Handbook, Volume 2. The memo can also be found on the Department’s web site: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ser/memos.htm>.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Teresa Dixon introduced herself as the Cultural Resources Specialist for the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and she also mentioned that she has many other responsibilities with the Tribe. Teresa showed a video, the result of her father’s vision (Harold Dixon), which tells a story about the importance of protecting cultural resources. The video also addresses the impact of the SR 395 project that went through Washoe/Paiute sacred land. The video’s title is “Papoose Meadow Project.” She mentioned that the Susanville Rancheria would be contacting Caltrans, and other agencies, in ongoing efforts to protect this sacred village area.

Jila mentioned that an Environmental Justice film is been produced by the National Indian Justice Center (NIJC), and that this video also addresses the importance of protecting cultural resources, as well as addressing tribal communities’ transportation needs, and the importance of Tribal participation in transportation planning and programming processes in California.

Jila suggested that the Department could possibly use the video Teresa had shown, so that others may learn from it as well.

Teresa expressed mixed emotions of feeling a responsibility for the sacredness and confidentiality of the site, and that of her father’s vision to share this film with others so that they may learn from it.

Jila suggested that the video might also be shown at the two-day Tribal Transportation Academy's schedule for this year, as well as at the May 5<sup>th</sup> Native American Advisory Committee meeting.

Christine Boston Ione Band of Miwok spoke of efforts of the Central Sierra Conservancy in buying land to provide two ten-acre sites in Tuolumne, and El Dorado counties for Indians to use as cultural areas.

### **Development New Memo for Government-to-Government Consultation and Section 106 Consultation**

Cynthia explained that we have the tools, but that we now need to pull everything together. Consultation is not defined in just one area – so a strategy has been introduced for consultation, to get buy-off from management, and to also provide guidance. A joint memo to combine the two different consultation processes will be developed by HQ's Division Chief of Transportation Planning, Joan Sollenberger and HQ's Division Chief of Environmental Analysis, Gary Winters, so that both environmental and planning efforts will be addressed jointly, e.g. tribal government, project initiation documents, rehab and maintenance issues, environmental concerns, etc.

- Need a little more consolidation of consultation
- Section 106 states other consultation is needed as well
- Trying to consolidate so that when we go out to meet with RTPAs for example, we can have one comprehensive meeting on Consultation
- Transportation Planning Guide for Native American discusses in general both Consultation and the Section 106 Consultation
- Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with D-10/D-3 are almost completed and could serve as an example(s)
- Guideline for Consultation should be out soon – Joe Myers at the NIJC is working on a guideline, which Cynthia will be reviewing. Joe Myers has experience writing guidelines, e.g. he completed a guideline for the Bureau of Land Management based on Environmental concerns.
- Guidelines will be sent out for review via mail, fax, etc.
- Consultation Protocol for Tribes (form) – We need input from everyone after their review. This form could be tailor-made to reflect a Tribe's criteria. Keeping the questions simple and direct, this form can be modified for individual needs.
- Discussion Points re: Tribal Consultation Process –Review and comment on this information. The Rural County Task Force might also be a good forum for sharing the above.
- Meeting with the Tribes “doesn't have to be complicated” – Taking the first step to meet with the Tribes, and then meeting regularly for consistency is key.

### **Announcements:**

A Transit Scholarship application was announced for an eight week training session in the spring. Invite Tribal communities to apply. Contact District Liaisons for more information.

**Next meeting** is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> in Woodland. This meeting was changed to **May 19<sup>th</sup>**.



